

INFORMATION SHEET

PROPOSED 2007 SESSION LEGISLATION

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
MONTANA DISASTER & EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION

SB 35 - A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO INCLUDE THE STATE OF MONTANA IN THE STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID SYSTEM; AMENDING SECTION 10-3-903, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

RECOMMENDATION

Approve this housekeeping piece of legislation to amend the Montana Code Section 10-3-903 to include the "State of Montana" as a member jurisdiction of the Intrastate Mutual Aid agreement. Passing this initiative will enhance the state's capability to deploy local resources for Presidentially declared disasters through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC).

BACKGROUND

During the last legislative session, the Intra-State Mutual Aid initiative was passed. This legislation expanded the capability for jurisdictional entities to share resources during emergencies and disasters by non-typical response entities such as public works without affecting current agreements already in place. Montana is part of the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). This compact is an agreement between governors to share "state owned" resources during major disasters or emergencies.

During the Hurricane Katrina response, there were requests that could have been filled with local resources. Montana, along with many other states, did not have a mechanism in place to provide the deployment assistance. After researching the issue, the easy solution to provide local resources through the EMAC initiative is to add the "State of Montana" as a member of the Intra-State Mutual Aid Agreement. This change will allow local government to offer their services to the State of Montana via mutual aid in an effort to provide assistance to another state through the EMAC channels using nationally tested and approved procurement and deployment procedures.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

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